

SENATE BILL 933

By Crowe

AN ACT to name a segment of State Route 93 in Washington County in honor of the late Private First Class (PFC) Nilon K. Bacon, United States Army.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Private First Class (PFC) Nilon K. Bacon, United States Army, who was killed in combat while serving in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, a native and lifetime resident of the Fall Branch community in Washington County, PFC Bacon dearly loved his home, as well as his family, friends, and neighbors; he was the only person from Fall Branch to lose his life in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, PFC Bacon made the ultimate sacrifice on May 26, 1968, while serving at Fire Base 29, Dak To, Vietnam; for their heroic actions in combat, his entire unit was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation By President Richard Nixon; and

WHEREAS, PFC Bacon followed the patriotic tradition for which Washington County and the Volunteer State are renowned by serving with distinction in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, PFC Bacon did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and defend the citizens of The Republic of Vietnam from the tyranny of Communism; and

WHEREAS, Nilon K. Bacon served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves

proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, PFC Bacon's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, a certain segment of State Route 93 passes through the Fall Branch community so beloved by Nilon Bacon and then traverses the bluff at the Washington County - Sullivan County boundary; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly deems it most appropriate to name such segment of State Route 93 to permanently commemorate the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of the late Private First Class Nilon K. Bacon, United States Army; now, therefore,
BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the segment of State Route 93 in Washington County from such route's intersection with Interstate 81 at Exit 50 northward to the Washington County - Sullivan County boundary is hereby designated as the "PFC Nilon K. Bacon Memorial Highway" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of Private First Class Nilon K. Bacon, United States Army.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of State Route 93 described in Section 1 as the "PFC Nilon K. Bacon Memorial Highway". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not

render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.